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Congressional Documents.

MILITIA OF THE UNITED STATES.

Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a system of reorganization of the Militia of the United States.

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 20, 1840.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 9th inst., "that the Secretary of War be requested to communicate his plan, in detail, for the reorganization of the militia of the United States," I have the honor of submitting the following Report:

The impossibility of guarding our exposed frontiers by the small regular force of the U. States, renders it necessary that some plan should be devised to make the militia available without burdening the country, either by too great an expense in maintaining it in the field, or by abstracting too large a number of useful citizens from the productive labors of agriculture or of the mechanic arts.

The mass of the militia of the United States, as at present organized, does not fall short of one million five hundred thousand men; and every day that they are mustered for inspection or exercise abstracts at least one million of dollars from the earnings of labor, without adding any thing whatever to the military efficiency of the country, and too often affecting injuriously the moral condition of those who are assembled for the purpose. Left by the little instruction they receive on such occasion, without discipline, subordination, or knowledge of the use of arms, and totally ignorant of the manner of taking care of themselves or of each other in the field, such a militia, if called out in mass, would rather prove a burden than an assistance to the army employed in the defence of the country, as is shown by the experience of General Washington, repeatedly expressed in his correspondence, as well as by the result of more recent events during the last war. It is true that, in the principal cities of the United States, there are to be found well organized, disciplined, and soldier-like companies, battalions, regiments, brigades, and divisions, of volunteers; men who, individually and collectively, would do good service in the field. But any one acquainted practically with war, knows that to fight bravely, and even to manœuvre coolly and skilfully, on the field of battle, are not the most necessary qualifications of the soldier. They are, perhaps, the most common, and the least often called into action. Soldiers must be taught their duties in garrison, and in the field, in marching and encamping, in the police and military administration of an army. This instruction, so essential, and without which it is impossible to form the soldier, cannot be given in a day's training, by officers nearly as ignorant of these branches of the service as the soldiers themselves. I speak of the generality of the militia officers. It must be imparted by veteran and skilful officers, in garrison and in camp, and to men and officers alike; and it must be imparted to a few at a time. Any attempt to organize, discipline, and render every way fit-for service in the field, the unwieldy mass of the militia of this vast country, which will soon ascend to two millions of men, must fail for want of means, and leave the country exposed to the terrible disasters which will attend the first burst of war upon its frontiers, if they are to be defended by armed but undisciplined multitudes.

It has been supposed that it will be sufficient to instruct the officers only, and that the privates can, under well instructed officers, be formed into soldiers instantly, by the magic voices of good commanders.

This is a double and most dangerous error. In the first place, it requires time to form a soldier, under the most practised, experienced, and skilful officers; and our soil might be polluted by the foot of the invader, our cities taken and sacked, and our forts occupied, before our armed citizens would be taught the elements of tactics, or the simple use of the firelock. And, secondly, it will prove a fatal error to suppose that an officer can be formed by being drilled as a private. The habit of command, the prompt eye, the firm tone, the self-possession in moments of difficulty and danger, which inspire the men with confidence and courage, and are so essential to secure their ready obedience, are the result of practice. The officers and privates who are to act together in the field, must be drilled together, and practised, the one to the duties of obedience, and the other to those of command.

Satisfied that an efficient force cannot be created by drilling the officers alone, as well as of the impracticability of rendering the whole mass of the militia available at the same time for the defence of the country, and convinced, from the experience of our past wars, that it is necessary to organize and discipline a select body of citizen soldiers, who, in a moment of danger, will know their stations, and their duties when assembled there, and who, although separated from the mass for a short time, will return and impart to it the military knowledge and experience they have acquired during their period of service, I have prepared the plan, the details of which are herewith submitted, agreeably to the resolution of the House. It is believed that, on examining them, it will be apparent that the scheme is not liable to any one of the objections that are urged against large standing armies; but, on the contrary, that it will form a select body of well disciplined militia, ready themselves to defend their country in the hour of danger against any sudden attack, and furnishing a corps around which the less instructed mass may rally; possessing, in some degree, the military knowledge and skill of regular soldiers, they will be able alike to protect their country from a foreign foe, and to guard its liberties from any danger that may threaten them.

It appears to me that the organization now proposed will prevent the necessity of maintaining large standing armies, even in time of war. The militia, properly drilled and instructed, will be thereby rendered perfectly efficient, and capable of defending the forts along our maritime frontier, which, in the absence of such an organization, would require a regular army of fifty thousand men. At present, the militia cannot be rendered immediately available against a surprise; whereas, under the proposed organization, they would repair to their stations at the first alarm, and would be efficient soldiers when there. In case of war, those stations would become permanent, and arrangements might easily be made so as to render the service as little burdensome as possible to the artizan and mechanic.

Every precaution has been taken to avoid all interference with the rights of the States, or to lessen their means of defence. The militia will be called out in the manner at present provided for by law, and no change is contemplated in the mode of officering the several corps of which the active class will be composed.

It will not abstract a single man from the defence of the State where he resides, nor separate him from the class of citizens to which he belongs. It will, on the contrary, strengthen the defences of each State, by furnishing it with a well organized and well disciplined force, taken from the people, and making part of the people equally interested with their fel-

low-citizens in the preservation of free institutions, and ready at all times to guard the territory and the liberty of their country. Neither does it interfere, in any manner, with the constitutional rights of the States to train their own militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress, because the active militia will be employed by the President during the period they are preparing for warlike service in the garrison and in the field. And while the States have all the advantages which may result from a well organized and disciplined militia, they will, at the same time, be exempt from the losses, expenses, and evils which follow, necessarily, from the assemblage of large multitudes for merely a nominal military instruction. It is to be considered, also, that a portion of the militia are provided with opportunities for the attainment of the essentials of military knowledge; and, at the same time that they relieve the remainder from an onerous and useless burden, they themselves will not be oppressed by an undue amount of military service being required of them: but, on the contrary, by comparing the time which, under the present system, is devoted to that object, it will be found that there is but very little additional service, if any, required, and for that time they will be sufficiently compensated. The compensation contemplated is adequate under a good administration of the laws proposed, which are to be made uniform in their application, by regulations to be issued by the President, so as to prevent any expense to the citizen who is thus called out; though it may not rise, in amount, to the sum which his pursuits in social life might afford. The total amount required to recompense the militia to be called out for exercise will be trifling, when compared with the loss of time experienced by our fellow citizens under the present imperfect organization, and of the serious evils to which the youth of the country are exposed by the frequent attempts now made to impart to them a very imperfect knowledge of the duties of the soldier. The subjoined plan will, it is believed, tend to diminish, if not entirely remove such evils, and will also, by engendering an *esprit du corps* throughout the militia of the several districts, elevate in the mind of every citizen the character of the duties which he is required to perform, and thus make more certain the results which we hoped for by this system of military precaution and defence. In preparing the details of the proposed reorganization of the militia of the United States, I have been governed by an earnest desire to place the country in an attitude of defence, and, at the same time, to secure it from the necessity of maintaining at any period a large standing army; to render the militia effective, without withdrawing too large a number of our fellow-citizens from their occupation at any one time; and to diffuse throughout the community generally some knowledge of military service without taxing the Treasury too heavily. All this, it appears to me, will be effected by drilling, during four years, one hundred thousand men, for a period not exceeding thirty nor less than ten days in each and every year, at such times as may least interfere with their ordinary occupations; and, for an equal term, keeping that force so organized that it may serve as a reserve, ready to act in cases of emergency: doing, in the meanwhile, ordinary militia duty, such as is now required by law in the several States. The expenses of the system, which, if carried out, would place the United States in an impregnable state of defence, will not exceed \$1,362,093 yearly, if the maximum number of days for drill be adopted by Congress; and as it is believed that ten days in each and every year will prove sufficient, the annual expense will be less than \$500,000.

Details of the proposed system.

It should be provided—

1st. That each and every free able-bodied white male citizen of the respective States, resident therein, who is or shall be of the age of twenty and under that of forty-five years, (with the exceptions hereinafter

stated,) shall, severally and respectively, be enrolled in the militia by the captain or commanding officer of the company within whose bounds such citizens shall reside; and that it shall be the duty, at all times, of every such captain or commanding officer of a company, to enrol every such citizen as aforesaid, and also those who shall, from time to time, arrive at the age of twenty years, or who, being of that age and under that of forty-five years, (with the exceptions hereinafter named) shall come to reside within his bounds; and that he shall, without delay, notify such citizen of the said enrolment, by a proper non-commissioned officer of the company, by whom such notice may be proved: that every citizen so enrolled and notified shall, within three months thereafter, provide himself with a good musket, bore of capacity to receive a lead ball of eighteen in the pound; a sufficient bayonet and belt; two spare flints; a knapsack; cartridge box, to contain at least twenty-four cartridges suited to the bore of his musket, and each cartridge to contain a ball and three buck shot, and a sufficient quantity of powder; or with a good rifle, knapsack, shot pouch, and powder horn or flask, with sufficient powder and ball for twenty-four charges, and two spare flints; and that he shall appear so armed, accoutred, and provided when called out for exercise or into service; and every citizen so enrolled and providing himself with the arms, ammunition, and accoutrements, required as aforesaid, shall hold the same exempted from all suits, distresses, executions, or sales for debt, or for payment of taxes.

2d. That the Vice President of the United States, the officers, judicial and executive, of the Government of the United States; the members of both Houses of Congress and their respective officers; all custom-house officers with their clerks; all post officers and stage drivers, who are employed in the care and conveyance of the mail of the post office of the United States; all ferrymen employed at any ferry on the post road; or inspectors of exports; all pilots; all mariners actually employed in the sea service of any citizen or merchant within the United States; all persons who are, or may hereafter be, exempted by the laws of the respective States, shall be exempted from militia duty, notwithstanding their being above the age of twenty, and under that of forty-five.

3d. That the citizens thus enrolled shall constitute the FIRST CLASS, and be denominated the MASS of the militia; and the said MASS shall be divided into divisions, brigades, regiments, and companies, and be organized as follows, to wit: a company (infantry or rifle) shall consist of one captain, one first and second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer or bugler, and eighty privates. A company of dragoons shall consist of one captain, one 1st and 2d lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, one farrier, two buglers, and sixty privates. A company of artillery shall consist of one captain, two first and two 2d lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, three artificers, one drummer and fifer, or two buglers or trumpeters, and eighty privates. A regiment shall consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, one major, one adjutant, with the rank of first lieutenant, one quartermaster, with the rank of captain, one paymaster, one surgeon, one assistant surgeon, one sergeant major, one quartermaster sergeant, two principal musicians, and ten companies. A brigade shall consist of one brigadier general, with one aid-de-camp, having the rank of captain, two brigade inspectors, with the rank of major, and two regiments. A division shall consist of one major general, with two aides-de-camp, with the rank of major, one division inspector, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, one division quartermaster, with the rank of major, one judge advocate, and four brigades.

4th. That from each regiment of the MASS, there shall be formed two companies to serve as light infantry or riflemen; and that, to each division of the MASS, there shall be attached one company of artil-

ery and one company of horse, formed of volunteers at the discretion of the commander-in-chief of the State, not exceeding one company from a brigade, and shall be clothed and equipped at their own expense, the color and fashion to be determined by the brigadier general commanding the brigade to which they belong. That the commissioned officers of the artillery and infantry shall be armed with a sword of such description as is commonly denominated cut and thrust. That the commissioned officers of cavalry shall furnish themselves with good horses of at least fourteen and a half hands high, and be armed with a sabre and a pair of pistols and holsters for the same.

Each dragoon to furnish himself with a serviceable horse at least fourteen hands and a half high, a good saddle, bridle, valise, breast-plate and crupper, a pair of boots and spurs, a pair of pistols, a sabre, and a cartouch box, to contain twelve cartridges for pistols.

5th. That each regiment shall be provided with the State and regimental colors, and each company with a drum and fife, or bugles, as the Legislature of the respective States shall direct.

6th. That the divisions, brigades, and regiments into which the MASS is divided, shall be numbered at the period of their formation, and a record thereof made in the adjutant general's office of the State; and when in the field, or in service in the State, that they shall respectively take rank according to their numbers, reckoning the lowest number highest in rank; and also, that the relative rank of different corps shall be as follows: 1st cavalry, 2d artillery, 3d infantry, 4th riflemen; and that the said order shall be observed on all parades of ceremony and review, or on other duty, except when, in the opinion of the commanding officer, the good of the service may render another arrangement necessary; and further, that all commissioned officers shall take rank according to the date of their commissions; and when two of the same grade bear an equal date, then their rank shall be determined by lot, to be drawn by them before the commanding officer of the brigade, regiment, company, or detachment.

7th. That there shall be an adjutant general appointed in each State, with the rank of colonel, whose duty it shall be to distribute all orders from the commander-in-chief of the State to the several corps; to attend all public reviews, when the commander-in-chief of the State shall review the militia, or any part thereof; to obey all orders from him relative to carrying into execution and perfecting the system of discipline which may be established; to furnish blank forms of different returns that may be required, and to explain the principles on which they should be made; to receive from the several officers of the different corps throughout the State, returns of the militia under their commands, reporting the actual situation of their arms, accoutrements, and ammunition—their delinquencies, and every other thing which relates to the general advancement of good order and discipline; all of which the several commanding officers of the divisions, brigades, regiments, and companies should be required to make, in the upward order of gradation, and in such form and at such times as the Legislature of the respective States may direct, so that the said adjutant general may be duly furnished therewith; and the said adjutant general, from the returns thus furnished, should annually make an abstract or consolidated report of the same to the commander-in-chief of the State; and he should also make a return of the militia of the State to which he belongs, with their arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, to the adjutant general of the militia of the United States on or before the first Monday of January, in each year. And it should be made the duty of the Secretary of War, from time to time, to give such directions to the adjutant general of the militia as might, in his opinion, be necessary to produce uniformity in the said returns; and he should

lay an abstract of the same before Congress, before the last Monday of February annually.

8th. That it shall be the duty of the brigade inspectors to attend to regimental and brigade meetings of the militia composing the several brigades during the time of their being under arms; to inspect their arms, ammunition, and accoutrements; to superintend their exercise and manoeuvres, and introduce the prescribed system of military discipline throughout the brigade, and such orders as they shall, from time to time, receive from the commander-in-chief of the State; to report to the adjutant general of the State, at least once in every year, the condition of the brigade to which he belongs; the situation of the arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, as they actually may be at the time of inspection; and every other thing which may, in his judgment, relate to the government, good order, and military discipline of the brigade.

9th. That, in addition to the officers referred to, there shall be also one quartermaster general, with the rank of brigadier general, to the militia of each State.

10th. That within — months after the adoption and establishment of this system, there shall be taken from the MASS of the militia, in each State, Territory, and District of the United States, by draft, or by voluntary service, such number between the ages of twenty one and and thirty-seven years, so that the whole may not exceed 100,000 men, and in the following proportions for each State, Territory, and District respectively, to wit: Maine, 4,400 men; New Hampshire, 2,400; Vermont, 2,400; Massachusetts, 6,000; Connecticut, 2,800; Rhode Island, 800; New York, 18,000; New Jersey, 2,800; Pennsylvania, 10,400; Delaware, 800; Maryland, 3,200; Virginia, 6,000; District of Columbia, 400; North Carolina, 4,400; South Carolina, 2,400; Georgia, 2,800; Florida, 400; Alabama, 2,000; Mississippi, 800; Louisiana, 1,600; Tennessee, 4,400; Arkansas, 400; Missouri, 1,200; Iowa, 400; Kentucky, 4,400; Illinois, 1,200; Indiana, 2,800; Ohio, 8,000; Michigan, 800, and Wisconsin 400 men. This force to constitute the second class, and to be denominated the ACTIVE OR MOVEABLE force.

11th. That the ACTIVE OR MOVEABLE force shall be divided into companies and battalions, and be organized as follows: A company shall consist of one captain, one first and one second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer and one fifer, and ninety privates. A battalion shall consist of one major, an adjutant with the rank of first lieutenant, one quartermaster with the rank of first lieutenant, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, and four companies. And that the said ACTIVE OR MOVEABLE force shall be held to serve as such, and be governed by such rules as may be prescribed, for the period of four years—one-fourth of the same in each State, Territory, and District going out annually; the order of succession to be determined in the first instance by lot.

12th. That there shall be a third class of the militia of the United States, to be denominated the RESERVE or SEDENTARY force, which shall be organized in the same manner as the ACTIVE force. And that the RESERVE force, so organized, shall be composed of all those who shall have served the legal time indicated for the second class, and be held to serve for four years in the same; at the expiration of which time they shall return to the MASS, and be subject to no further military or militia duty, unless in cases of invasion, or a *levée en masse*. And such portions of the ACTIVE force as may go out of the same annually shall forthwith be considered as belonging to the RESERVE or SEDENTARY force; and after the termination of the first four years' service of any portion of the RESERVE, one-fourth of that body shall go out of service annually, in the same manner as prescribed for the second class.

13th. That the deficit occasioned by the transfer annually of one-fourth of the ACTIVE to the RESERVE force, and by the discharge annually of one-fourth of the RESERVE, be yearly supplied by a draught, or by voluntary service, from the MASS.

14th. That for the greater convenience of instruction and discipline of the ACTIVE and SEDENTARY force, the territory of the United States shall be divided into ten districts, which, until otherwise directed by law, shall be composed as follows:

1st District.

Maine	{	9,200 men.
New Hampshire			
Vermont			

2d District.

Massachusetts	{	9,600 men.
Rhode Island			
Connecticut			

3d District.

New York	18,000 men.
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4th District.

New Jersey	{	13,200 men.
Pennsylvania			

5th District.

Delaware	{	10,400 men.
Maryland			
District of Columbia			

Virginia

6th District.

North Carolina	{	10,000 men.
South Carolina			
Georgia			

Florida

7th District.

Alabama	{	8,000 men.
Mississippi			
Louisiana			

Tennessee

8th District.

Arkansas	{	2,000 men.
Missouri			
Iowa			

9th District.

Kentucky	{	7,400 men.
Illinois			
Indiana			

10th District.

Ohio	{	9,200 men.
Michigan			
Wisconsin			

Total.

97,800 men.

15th. That the battalions of the ACTIVE and SEDENTARY force shall be numbered at their formation, and a record made of the same; and that they shall take precedence according to the rank of the several majors commanding the same. And further, that when the battalion of two or more districts of the ACTIVE or SEDENTARY forces do duty together, they shall take rank according to the number of their respective districts, considering the lowest number highest in rank. And further, that the order of precedence between the army of the United States and the militia thereof, and between the several classes of the militia with one another, shall be as follows: 1. Troops of the United States. 2. Militia of the United States, in this order, to wit: 1. The ACTIVE force. 2. The SEDENTARY force. 3. The MASS.

16th. That the officers of the militia of the several classes shall be appointed by and in such manner as the Legislature of the respective States shall direct, and in the Territories of the United States in such manner as is prescribed by existing laws.

17th. That the President of the United States be authorized to call forth and assemble such numbers of the ACTIVE force of the militia, at such places within their respective districts, and at such times, not exceeding twice — days in the same year, as he may deem necessary; and during such period, including the time when going to and returning from the place of rendezvous, they shall be deemed in the service of the United States, and be subject to such regulations as the President may think proper to adopt for their instruction, discipline, and improvement in military knowledge.

18th. That whenever the United States shall be invaded, or be in imminent danger of invasion from any foreign nation or Indian tribe, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to call forth such number of the militia of the State or States most convenient to the place of danger or scene of action, and in the order provided for in the 15th head, and as he may judge necessary to repel such invasion; and to issue his orders to the proper officer. And in case of an insurrection in any State against the government thereof, that it shall be lawful for the President of the U. States, on application of the Legislature of such State, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) to call forth such number of the militia of any other State or States as may be applied for, as he may judge sufficient to suppress such insurrection.

19th. That whenever the laws of the United States shall be opposed, or the execution thereof obstructed in any State, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to call forth the militia of such State or of any other State or States, as may be necessary to suppress such combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed; and the use of the militia, so to be called forth, may be continued, if necessary, until the expiration of thirty days after the commencement of the then next session of Congress; provided that, whenever it may be necessary, in the judgment of the President, to use the military force thus called forth, he shall forthwith, by proclamation, command such insurgents to disperse, and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within a limited time; and provided also, that the militia, which the President is thus authorized to call forth, be of the ACTIVE, or of the ACTIVE and SEDENTARY forces, when such force or forces, of the State, or of the neighboring States, shall be, in his opinion, sufficient; and when not, then such portions of the MASS as he shall deem necessary,

20th. That the militia of the United States, or any portion thereof, when employed in the service of the United States, shall be subject to the same rules and articles of war as the troops of the United States. And that no officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private of the militia, shall be compelled to serve more than six months after his arrival to the place of rendezvous in any one year, nor more than in due rotation with every other able bodied man of the same rank in the regiment to which he belongs.

21st. That every citizen duly enrolled in the militia shall be constantly provided with arms, accoutrements and ammunition, as already pointed out, from and after the period when he shall have been duly notified of his enrolment; and any notice or warning to the citizens so enrolled, to attend a company, or regimental muster or training, which shall be according to the laws of the State in which it is given for that purpose, shall be deemed a legal notice of his enrolment.

22d. That the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, artificers, and privates, of volunteers and militia, when called into the service of the United States, in the manner and under the circumstances referred to, shall be entitled to and receive the same monthly pay, rations, clothing, or money in lieu thereof, and forage, and be furnished with the same camp equip-

age, as are or may be provided by law for the officers, musicians, artificers, and privates of the infantry of the United States; provided, nevertheless, that such portions of the militia as may be called out, as provided under the seventeenth head, shall not be entitled to receive clothing or money in lieu thereof, nor shall any officer of the same be entitled to forage, or money instead, for more than one horse, nor for more than one servant each.

23d. That the officers of all mounted companies, volunteers or militia, when in the service of the U. S., shall each be entitled to receive forage, or money in lieu thereof, for two horses when they actually keep private servants, and for one horse when without private servants; and that forty cents per day be allowed for the use and risk of each horse, except horses killed in battle, or dying of wounds received in battle. That each non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, and private, of all mounted companies, shall be entitled to receive forage in kind for one horse, with forty cents a day for the use and risk thereof, except horses killed in battle, or dying of wounds received in battle; and twenty-five cents per day in lieu of forage and subsistence when the same shall be furnished by himself, or twelve and a half cents per day for either, as the case may be.

24th. That any officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer, musician, or private, of militia volunteers, required to be mounted, who shall, when in the service of the United States, suffer, without any fault or negligence on his part while in said service, by the loss of a horse killed in battle, or by a horse dying of wounds received in battle, shall, upon due and sufficient proof thereof, be paid for the same; provided that not more than one hundred and twenty dollars be paid for each horse for which payment may be thus claimed.

25th. That the officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates, of the militia, when called into the service of the United States, shall be entitled to one day's pay, subsistence, and other allowances, for every day occupied when transported by water, and for every twenty miles when travelling by land, in going to the place of rendezvous, and returning from the place of discharge: provided that the militia so called into the service of the United States shall be deemed always to have travelled by the most usual or expeditious routes.

26th. That where any officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer, musician, or private, of the militia or of volunteers, who shall die in the service of the United States, or when returning to his place of residence after being mustered out of service, or at any time thereafter, in consequence of wounds received in service, and shall leave a widow, or, if no widow, a child or children, under sixteen years of age, such widow, or, if no widow, such child or children, shall be entitled to receive half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the time of his death, or at the time of his being mustered out of service, for and during the term of five years; and in case of the death or intermarriage of such widow before the expiration of five years, the half pay for the remainder of the time shall go to the child or children of said decedent: provided that the Secretary of War shall adopt such forms of evidence, to substantiate the application for such half pay, as the President of the United States may prescribe.

27th. The courts martial, for the trial of officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, or privates, of the militia or volunteer corps, shall be composed of militia officers only.

28th. That every officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer, musician, or private of the militia, who shall fail to obey the orders of the United States, in the case provided for calling forth the ACTIVE force, or parts thereof, (in the 17th head,) shall be fined, and forfeit a sum not exceeding three month's pay, nor less than half a month's pay, according to the circumstances of

the case, as a court martial may determine: and that every officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer, musician, or private of the militia, who shall fail to obey the orders of the President of the United States, in any of the cases cited in the 18th and 19th heads, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one year's pay, and not less than one month's pay, to be determined and adjudged, according to the circumstances of the case, by a court martial; and such officer shall, moreover, be liable to be cashiered by sentence of a court martial, and be incapacitated from holding a commission in the militia for a term of four years, at the discretion of the said court; and such non-commissioned officers and privates shall be liable to be imprisoned by the sentence of a court martial, on failure of the payment of fines adjudged against them, for one calendar month, for every five dollars of such fine.

29th. That all fines assessed, as described in the preceding head, shall be certified by the officer ordering the court, or the revising authority of the proceedings of the court martial having approved of the same, to the marshal of the district in which the delinquent shall reside, or to one of his deputies, and take a receipt from the said marshal or deputy, as the case may be, for the same; which receipt and duplicate, of the certificate furnished, he shall transmit for record to the adjutant general of the militia of the United States: that the marshal, or his deputy, having received the said certificate, shall forthwith proceed to levy the said fines, with cost, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the delinquent; which costs, and the manner of proceeding with respect to the sale of the goods distrained, shall be agreeable to the laws of the State in which the same shall be, as in other cases of distress: and when any non-commissioned officer or private shall be adjudged to suffer imprisonment, there being no goods or chattels to be found whereon to levy the said fines, the marshal of the district, or his deputy, shall commit such delinquent to jail during the term for which he shall be so adjudged to imprisonment, or until the fine shall be paid, in the same manner as other persons condemned to fine and imprisonment at the suit of the United States may be committed.

30th. That the marshals and their deputies shall make a return of the levy of fines, as provided for in the foregoing head, to the adjutant general of the militia of the United States, within sixty days, counting from the time that the certificate of the assessment of the said fines is placed in their hands; and they shall also pay into the hands of the said adjutant general, within the above named limit of time, all fines by them thus levied and collected, deducting therefrom five per centum as a compensation for their trouble; and in case any of the said marshals or their deputies shall fail to make the required return, or pay over to the adjutant general of the militia of the United States the fines collected, within the time above specified, it shall be the duty of the said adjutant general to inform the Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States of the same, who should be required to instruct the district attorney of the United States to proceed against the said marshal or deputy in the district court by attachment, for the recovery of the same.

31st. That the marshals and their deputies of the several districts shall have the same powers in executing the laws of the United States as sheriffs and their deputies in the several States have, by law, in executing the laws of the respective States.

32d. That the money or moneys collected by the assessment of fines referred to, shall be applied to the payment of all necessary expenses, as far as the same may be sufficient, for the repairs of arms, the preparation and preservation of military munitions, and for every other necessary thing that may be incident to the calling forth, and to the service of the militia, as provided for in the 17th head.

33d. The President shall appoint, by and with the

advice and consent of the Senate of the United States, one adjutant general of the militia of the United States, whose duty it shall be to receive and keep in files of his office all the reports and returns of the militia, with their arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, made by the adjutants general of the respective States, distinguishing the same by the different classes into which they are divided; also, annually, on or before the last Monday in February, to make an abstract or a consolidated return of the same, and lay it before the President of the United States, to be, by the President, submitted yearly to Congress. That it shall be his duty, likewise, to keep a record of copies, in a book provided therefor, of all certificates of the assessment of fines by the judgment of militia courts martial, for delinquencies cited in the 17th, 18th, and 19th of the foregoing heads; to keep a record or copy of the returns of the marshals or their deputies, of the execution of process, or the collection of the said fines, noting the time when the returns aforesaid are received; to keep a regular account of the amount of fines collected and paid over to him, and of the amount expended thereof; and to make to the Secretary of War, on or before the 30th of June and the 1st of December, of each year, a statement of the said receipts and expenditures. The money, or moneys, thus assessed, collected and paid over to the adjutant general, forthwith to be deposited by him for safekeeping in the vaults of the Treasury of the United States; and the amounts thus deposited to be passed to the credit of the adjutant general, and not to be drawn from the Treasury except upon warrants of the adjutant general, countersigned by the Secretary of War, and for the purposes which have been specified.

34th. That the adjutant general of the militia of the United States shall be paid the annual salary of three thousand dollars, in full for his services, and without any other allowances whatsoever, excepting such fuel and stationery as may be deemed necessary for an office, under the regulations of the War Department; and that the said office shall be attached to, and considered as one of the bureaus of, the War Department, and be subject to such rules and regulations in relation to all duties and purposes of its creation, as the Secretary of War may, from time to time, prescribe.

35th. That for the duties of the office of the adjutant general of the militia of the United States, there shall be allowed two clerks, if so many be necessary; and that the same be transferred from the office of the Adjutant General of the army of the United States, with annual salaries, not to exceed what is now allowed by law, according to the discretion of the Secretary of War.

36th. That the President of the United States be authorized to select such number of places for the establishment of depots, in each militia district of the United States, as he may deem necessary, for the safe-keeping of munitions and arms, and as the rendezvous of the militia, or portions thereof, that may be called forth.

37th. That the officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates of volunteers or militia, in the service of the United States, except when called, as provided for in the 17th head, shall be entitled to the like compensation, in case of disability, by wounds or otherwise, incurred in the service, as is, or may be, allowed to officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians and privates of the army of the United States.

38th. That the several corps of volunteers, which now exist in the several States, and in what manner soever organized, be not disturbed or deprived of their accustomed privileges; but nevertheless be subject to such restrictions as their respective Legislatures may direct, and to all other duties required by this system, in like manner with other militia.

39th. That the Legislatures of the several States, at the earliest period of time after the adoption of this

system, enact such laws as may be necessary to enrol and organize the militia of the respective States, according to the provisions contained herein: provided that, until such enrolment and organization be made, the existing laws governing the militia of each State be considered as still in force.

40th. That the term *militia* of the United States shall be so construed as to embrace within its meaning all troops of whatever description, not of the regular army of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. T. HUNTER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

REORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA.

Letter from the Secretary of War to the Chairman of the Committee on the Militia, explanatory of the plan for reorganizing the militia of the United States, heretofore submitted to the House, &c.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

April 6, 1840

SIR: There are several points in your proposed reorganization of the militia of the United States, which present a contrariety of opinions to the Committee on the Militia, to whom the subject was referred, and they request me to address you for the purpose of suggesting such difficulties as present themselves, and to ascertain a more full exposition of your views, so that we may act with all the information that can be obtained, as connected with the subject.

By the 14th proposition of the system, the territory of the United States is divided into ten districts, and, with the exception of New York, each district is composed of two, or more States. Are we to understand that the President is empowered to call out the whole force of any one of the districts at the same time, and at any point he may designate?

The interpretation of the "territory of the United States," is by some understood to mean the public lands and the District of Columbia, and cannot embrace the limits of the several States unless there be a misconstruction of the letter and spirit of the Constitution, which declares "a well regulated militia as being necessary to the security of a free State."

By the 17th proposition, the power of the President to call forth and assemble such numbers of the active force of the militia as he may deem necessary, and subject them to such regulations as he may think proper to adopt for their instruction, discipline, and improvement in military knowledge, is an organization supposed to be incompatible with the 8th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, that "provides for calling forth the militia, and reserves to the States, respectively, the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

With a sincere desire to effect the object of reorganizing, and more fully disciplining, the militia, the great bulwark of the country, you will not deem it importunate that we thus freely confer with you upon the subject.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. KEIM,

Chairman of the Committee on the Militia.
Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 8, 1840.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, stating the difficulties which have suggested themselves to the committee to which was referred the plan for the reorganization of the militia of the United States, and desiring to ascertain my views more fully than they are stated in the plan presented to the House.

The details of the plan for reorganizing the militia having been called for by a member of the committee, I took it for granted that this course would be pursued, and, to avoid being tedious, did not enter into more minute explanations. I therefore avail myself, with pleasure, of the opportunity now afforded me to reply to the objections which have presented themselves to the committee. The proposition to divide the territory of the United States, by which is here meant the area embraced by the geographical boundaries of the whole confederacy, is intended for military purposes, in order that each district may be commanded by one officer, who would have the general direction of the regulars and militia within the district; but the plan contemplated that the power of the President to call out this militia should be restricted to assembling the militia of each State within its own territorial limits.

With regard to the 17th article, the same difficulty which presented itself to the committee, occurred to me when considering this subject, viz: that provision of the Constitution which restricts the power of Congress over the militia to organizing, arming, and disciplining them, reserving to the States respectively the appointment of officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress. Although the word "disciplining" is susceptible of a different interpretation from that given to it here, yet the subsequent reservation to the States of the power to train the militia according to the system of discipline adopted by Congress, would seem to define its meaning; and as we cannot be too scrupulous in our interpretation of the Constitution, I propose that, in the event of its becoming necessary to resort to draughts in order to fill the ranks of the active class of militia, to apply to the States to place by law their contingents at the disposition of the General Government, for a period of not more than thirty days of every year, for the purpose of their being trained in conjunction with regular troops, and by veteran officers. It is not probable that this co-operation will be withheld by any State, when the advantages are presented to it of possessing a body of well organized, well armed, and well disciplined militia, without any expense either to the States or to the citizens thereof; and when they are made aware that it is the intention of the Government to assemble such militia at convenient points within each State, and in the vicinity of depots of arms, which it is proposed to establish as part of the system.

I am, however, led to believe, from the character of our fellow citizens, and from circumstances which have come to my knowledge, that it will scarcely be necessary to resort to militia draughts in order to fill the ranks of the active class. The volunteer corps have generally evinced so much eagerness to avail themselves of the advantages to be derived from an association with regulars, and so much zeal and proper feeling, by proffering their services on all occasions when they might be useful, that I cannot doubt, if the President were authorized to receive them into the service of the United States, a sufficient body of volunteers within the prescribed age might be enrolled, and the necessity for draughts altogether avoided. I propose, therefore, that this authority be granted; but restricted so as to limit the time, even of voluntary service, to a period not exceeding thirty days in each year. Aware, however, of the importance and comprehensiveness of this subject, together with the many difficulties which surround it, it is by no means my desire to precipitate the action of Congress upon a question of such magnitude and consequence. Subsequent reflection and discussion have but strengthened my conviction of the propriety, practicability, and expediency of the proposed plan in its essential features, which I am persuaded have but to be examined with a candid mind and patriotic feelings, to secure general approbation. But these very considerations make it but the more imperative that it should re-

ceive the fullest and most mature consideration, even should this have the effect of preventing final action upon it at the present session of Congress. It is, perhaps, universally proper that questions, involving, in a high degree, the great interests of the people, should be subjected to popular, as well as legislative investigation. An ordeal to which the system proposed will be most cheerfully submitted. If, on maturer deliberation, there be any thing found in the system itself, or in its details, which conflicts with the rights of the States, or with the interests of our fellow citizens, the objectionable parts may be amended or expunged, or the whole system altered or abandoned.

If the committee should be of opinion that the situation of the country requires the adoption of some immediate measures to render the militia force more available for defence than it now is, it is respectfully suggested that the plan submitted by the Department of War last year and the year before, would not only prove efficient, but would test the practicability of the measure now proposed.

That plan contemplated authorizing the President to receive into the service, for a given number of days in the year, volunteers to the amount of — men, at such points as he may designate, for the purpose of being trained and disciplined, and made acquainted with the duties they would have to perform at the stations they might be required to defend in the event of any sudden emergency. At this moment the most important of our naval stations and most valuable cities are exposed to be destroyed or taken, although there are brave men enough to defend them; but who require previous concert and more perfect training, to render them efficient.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT,
Hon. G. M. KEIM,
Chairman of the Committee of the Militia, H. R.

The British Government have appropriated, this year, upwards of twenty millions of dollars to their navy. From the sum employed, some idea may be formed of the extent of the projected enlargement. For what reason, is not known, a great effort is making to strengthen their fleets. Jealousy of France and Russia is doubtless one motive, and perhaps the expectation that a strong naval force may be necessary, to keep in check the privateers and cruisers of Brother Jonathan, should the Maine controversy end in an outbreak. The British are at great pains and expense with their war steamers. They calculate and with justness, that upon the strength of this arm will depend the ability of England to retain her sceptre as mistress of the seas. As a protection to commerce during war, the advantage of steam vessels must be immense. Privateersmen, and vessels of war of light metal, would not venture upon the sea in the face of such an enemy. Hence, in the event of hostilities between us and Great Britain, her commerce will be safe from the kind of annoyance that did so much harm during the last war—privateers and small cruisers. The British steamers will sweep such craft from the ocean like chaff before the whirlwind. How strange that our Government has done nothing to keep up with the improvement in naval warfare! No wonder Great Britain is saucy, knowing as she does, our defenceless condition, and the safety afforded to her commerce by the batteries of forty steam ships of war.—*New Orleans Commercial Bulletin.*

SALE OF ONE OF THE SLAVE VESSELS.—The schooner *Butterfly*, which was brought in here by a British cruiser, and condemned in the U. S. Court, for being engaged in the slave trade, was yesterday sold at auction, by order of the Court. Messrs Foulke & Son were the purchasers, and gave \$3,000 for her. She is said to have been built at Baltimore, and to have cost not long since, \$8,000.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

WASHINGTON CITY,
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1840.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Want of room compels us to defer until next week the communication of a Married Officer, (declined by the editors of the National Intelligencer, and submitted by them to us.)

F. R. D., pointing out a literary plagiarism, shall appear soon.

Our present number contains several extracts from the Pensacola Gazette, of the 18th and 25th ult., obtained through the Mobile and New Orleans papers; while the Gazette itself, of those dates, has not been received at this office. Very frequently we notice quotations from the Gazette in other papers, some days before that paper reaches us.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.—We are daily in expectation of receiving a list of officers, corrected to the latest dates, and shall lose no time in publishing it. The great pressure of business upon the Treasury Department has been the principal cause of delay.

A Board or Commission has been sitting in England for nearly two years to inquire into naval and military promotion and retirement. The Commission was composed of the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Richmond, Earl of Minto, (First Lord of the Admiralty) Lord Viscount Melville, Lord Viscount Howick, Lord Hill, (Commander of the Forces) Admiral Sir George Cockburn, Sir Henry Hardinge, Sir James Kempt, Mr. Labouchere, Sir Hussey Vivian, (Master of the Ordnance) Admiral Sir Thomas M. Hardy (since dead,) Sir Charles Adam, and Sir Richard Williams.

The Commissioners have closed their labors, and presented their Report, with minutes of the evidence taken before them, the whole of which has been printed and forms a volume of between 600 and 700 pages. We have received a copy of the Report, and of a part but not the whole of the evidence.

With much in the Report that is of merely local interest, there is yet a great deal of a historical and statistical character that will prove acceptable to our readers. We shall embrace the earliest opportunity that the previous claims upon our columns will allow, to make some extracts.

The Sailor's Magazine for May contains an appeal to the friends of seamen for further aid in disseminating the Gospel by the erection or establishment of chapels for seamen in foreign ports.

There are few objects that possess stronger claims upon our sympathy than seamen—a class of beings who, in worldly matters, are as helpless as children. The widow and the orphan have the first place in our charitable feelings, and next to them the seamen. If we would reflect a little, we should find that to them we are indebted for a large portion of the luxuries and comforts of life, which by habit have become almost necessities.

If we can benefit this class by rescuing them from vice and misery abroad, through the influence of the Gospel, it is every man's duty, as it should be his pleasure, to contribute according to his means.

The least sum that is required to carry out the plans of the Seamen's Friend Society, is \$20,000; and the Executive Committee remark, "could that sum be obtained previous to next autumn, and a liberal spirit be manifested in years to come, the seamen's cause would at once rise from its depression, and shine forth as a rich blessing to the world."

In their praiseworthy efforts to advance this noble cause, we bid them "God speed."

The Knickerbocker for May is promptly on our table, and presents a varied as well as attractive table of contents. "The last of the Mandans" is a vivid sketch of Indian character, drawn to the life, we doubt not, by Wm. J. SNELLING, a son, if we are not mistaken, of the late Col. SNELLING, of the U. S. army. Geoffrey Crayon continues his valuable papers. There are two articles in the May number, which we shall take an early opportunity to copy—the first, "A Reminiscence of the late War," by Geo. Barrell, Esq., and "Lines, in memory of the late Lieut. Wm. Hulbert, U. S. A."

TEXIAN NAVY.—The following list of vessels constitutes the present naval force of Texas. As there are a number of the officers of that service who were once officers of our own navy, these details may be interesting to many of the readers of the Chronicle—

Steamer Zalava	{ An efficient and well appointed vessel
Sloop Trinity	{ 600 tons, carries 20 24-pounder medium guns
Brigs	{ Colorado { 400 tons, carry each 16 18-pounder Galveston { medium guns
Schooners	{ San Jacinto { 170 tons, carry each 4 12-pounders, San Bernard { and 1 long 18 San Antone { on a pivot
Brig Potomac	, Receiving vessel.

These vessels, with the exception of the steamer and receiving vessel, were built, equipped, and provisioned under the immediate superintendence of John G. Tod, Esq., Texian Navy Agent to the United States; a gentleman, well and favorably known in this country, having at an early period of his life held an honorable place in our navy. The complete and seamanlike manner in which these six vessels were fitted for service, would have reflected credit upon any officer of any service, the more so, since an officer thus placed must have much to contend with, which could not occur in a regular organized Government navy yard. While an apparent rigid economy pervaded every portion of these vessels, nothing was omitted which could contribute to a proper efficiency. Strength and durability supplied the place of gingerbread work, which might please the eye of the landsman, but never satisfy the judgment of the sailor.

These vessels were supplied with every necessary both for officers and men, a wise provision for the navy

of a country so newly settled as Texas. The boarding swords furnished by Mr. Ames, of Springfield, Mass., reflect great credit upon both the manufacturer and Mr. Tod, for his display of judgment and good taste in selecting the patterns. If we were not afraid of extending our article to too great a length, we might enlarge (and it would afford us great pleasure to do so,) upon the invaluable services already rendered by this indefatigable public servant of our sister republic. That he will receive that richest and best of all rewards of the faithful officer, *the approbation of his country*, no one can doubt.

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

HANCOCK BARRACKS, April 23, 1840.

General EUSTIS and staff arrived at this post on the 18th instant. Captain PORTER, with company, (A) finished here yesterday a march of between three and four hundred miles in this worst season of the year in the north.

The barracks here were built to accommodate only four companies when the complement was fifty-five men; now four companies, of seventy-one men each, are to occupy the same space.

The quartermaster's department is constructing quarters in rear of the permanent ones for four companies of the 1st artillery now on their route, and expected on or about the 1st of May.

The buildings are entirely of frame-work, and from their proximity liable to permit a fire from one to extend to all. Water for the use of the garrison is brought from nearly a mile distance. We are surrounded by a low picket, having no flanking arrangements; the parade ground is raised to nearly the height of the pickets, so that we have no protection from the fire of an enemy from without, nor any means of returning it from within. Artillery cannot be used at present under cover, and we are too weak for the open field.

If the collecting of five hundred regular troops at an isolated post beyond the means of relief, and exposed to the first and probably a sudden and unexpected attack, was intended for a movement of precaution, the same object would be more strongly kept in view, were such defences erected as would at least enable them to make a *demonstration* of resistance to more than triple their force within a few hours march of this place.

It is not the opinion of many in this region that hostilities will take place; yet there is a probability; and for which probability we should make some preparation.

[BY THIS MORNING'S SOUTHERN MAIL.]

FORT HEILEMAN, Flo., May 1, 1840.—On the 28th ultimo, Captain RAINS, 7th infantry, commanding at Fort King, while out with a detachment of his company, within a mile and a half of the post, was attacked by a body of Indians, from 60 to 80 strong, when one sergeant and three privates were killed; Captain RAINS and three privates wounded. Fears

are entertained that the former [Capt. R.] is not likely to recover.

On the 30th, Col. TWIGGS, commanding the Eastern District, ordered Lieut. Lawton with a troop to reinforce Fort King.

Gen. TAYLOR, when last heard of, was at Fort Fanning, on his way to Tampa, 14th ult.

Brig. Gen. ARMISTEAD is now at St. Augustine, President of the General Court Martial in session. It is rumored that he succeeds Gen. TAYLOR in command of the army of the south.

[We should be very happy to comply with the request of the writer of the above letter, but we have not a single number of the work he asks for.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*]

We take pleasure in laying before our readers the following correspondence, bearing testimony to the faithful and efficient services of a meritorious officer attached to the Revenue Cutter Service, and also to the important assistance afforded under the regulations of the Treasury Department, in employing some of the cutters to cruise off the coast during the severity of the winter season, to furnish supplies and render aid to vessels in distress. As the system has proved so beneficial to the interests of our mercantile community, as well as to the cause of humanity, we trust it may be continued in future seasons by the Department.

CUSTOM HOUSE, NEW YORK,

April 23, 1840.

SIR: I have received your letter, stating that you had delivered over the brig Washington to Lieut. GEDNEY, of the Coast Survey service, and that you are now out of employ. I am not aware what disposition the Secretary will make of you, but it is due to you to say, that I am perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have discharged your duty in that vessel the past winter.

You were fortunate enough to render essential service to various vessels on the coast, bound in, which proves the wisdom of the Secretary, in devoting to that service so fine a vessel as the Washington.

I am, &c.

J. HOYT, Collector.

Lieut. ALEX. V. FRAZER,
of Revenue Service,

NEW YORK, April 23, 1840.

To ALEX. V. FRAZER, Esq., Lieut. U. S. Rev. Serv.

SIR: The Board of Underwriters of this city were gratified to learn some months since, that the U. S. brig Washington, under your command, was destined to cruise off this port during the winter. It has been very satisfactory to them to hear of the relief frequently rendered by you to vessels in distress, and that you were enabled to remain at sea during the greatest severity of winds and weather.

The merchants and underwriters of our city have frequently expressed a wish to have one or more U. S. vessels kept at sea, off our coasts, in bad weather, both for the purpose of affording relief, and also with a view to the improvement of seamen; and we take great pleasure in giving our opinion in favor of the course adopted by the Secretary of the Treasury, in having at sea off the northern ports, during the winter, a part of the Government vessels to render assistance to those in need of it; and we also beg leave to bear

testimony of your usefulness during the last season, and to express a hope that it may be continued hereafter.

WM. NEILSON,

Pres't Board of Underwriters.

WALTER R. JONES, Sec'y.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

April 28—Col. J. Bankhead, 2d arty.,	Gadsby's
29—Surgeon W. L. Wharton, army,	do.
May 1—Lieut. H. L. Scott, 4th infy.,	Fuller's
2—Capt. G. Andrews, 6th infy.,	T. P. A.'s
Asst. Sur. R. Southgate, army, Mrs. Brereton's	
4—Lieut. W. Frazer, 3d arty.,	Gadsby's
5—Capt. J. J. Abercrombie, 1st infy.,	Fuller's
Lieut. W. Grandin, 4th infy.,	do.
6—Capt. W. C. De Hart, 2d arty., Mrs. Brereton's	

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1840.

ARMY.—Capt. W. C. De Hart.

NAVY.—Mid. W. L. Blanton, Dr. Waters Smith, Dr. J. S. Messersmith, Lt. Wm. [B.] Whiting, Lt. Oliver Tod, Capt. Fred. Engle.

MARINE CORPS.—Lieut. F. C. Hall.

WASHINGTON, May 1, 1840.

ARMY.—Dr. S. R. Arnold 2, Capt. C. O. Collins, Capt. J. M. Hill, Capt. J. A. Phillips, Dr. R. Southgate, Lieut. W. H. Warner.

NAVY.—Purser H. Bridge, Rev. W. Colton 2, Lieut. F. Huger, Mid. Henry Rodgers, [Purser] D. M. F. Thornton, Lieut. Wm. S. Young.

MARINE CORPS.—Lieut. I. T. Doughty, Lieut. Robt. T. [D.] Taylor.

NORFOLK, May 1, 1840.

NAVY.—Josiah Colston, Lieut. J. B. Dale 2, Dr. W. F. McClenahan, Mrs. Dr. G. W. Peete, P. A. Southall.

PASSENGERS.

SAVANNAH, April 25, per steam packet Wm. Seabrook, from Charleston, Gen. W. K. Amistead, Col. J. B. Walbach, Major M. M. Payne, and Dr. J. B. Wells and lady; all bound to Florida. April 28, per steamboat Forester, from Garey's Ferry, Lieut. J. O'Brien, of the army, and lady.

CHARLESTON, April 28, per steam packet C. Vanderbilt, from Wilmington, Major W. Hoffman, of the army. Per steam packet Wm. Seabrook, from Savannah, Capt. T. Paine, of the navy, Lieut. Wise, of the army.

NEW ORLEANS, April 24, per steamer Caroline, from Mobile, Paymaster B. Walker, of the army.

Communications.

THE FLORIDA WAR.

The Florida war has now been carried on for more than four years; and there is as little prospect of its termination as at any period since its commencement. The campaign of 1839-'40 has closed without any important results. Great efforts have been made to subdue the Seminoles, and great sacrifices of lives and treasure have been made, without effecting any thing towards the termination of the war; the Indians being at this moment more ferocious, more enterprising, and more successful than ever. We blame no one for these consequences. All that we have gained is experience, and we must profit by that experience and try to do better in future. The question then is, what is to be done, and how are we to bring this war to a speedy termination? Many plans have been proposed; some of them, no doubt, would succeed if properly carried out.

The war commenced with a great deal of zeal, and officers and soldiers of the regular forces, as well as of the militia and volunteers, entered on it with spirit, believing it would be but a short work. All kinds of forces have been employed, as artillery, cavalry, infantry, marines, and even sailors, of the regular establishments; and also militia and volunteers of great spirit; and even friendly Indians have been put in

requisition, commanded by officers of approved courage and military tact. Nor has the War Department been sparing in furnishing the most ample means for giving effect to the action of these forces; yet the war is not ended. It is true, that a considerable number of Indians have been either destroyed or transported to the country assigned them, west of the Mississippi. Still there remains a sufficient number of warriors to harass, nay destroy, the whole settled frontier of Florida, unless a large force be stationed continually along the frontier for its defence. The question then recurs, what is to be done to finish this terrible war of murder and rapine? or what plan can be adopted most likely to subdue, in the shortest time, and with the least expenditure in treasure and blood, the fiends who infest Florida?

We will present a plan for consideration, which we think will be effectual for the purpose. We propose to go systematically to work. We now possess a tolerably accurate map of Florida, made by Topographical Engineers and other officers, from Tallahassee to the southern extremity of Florida Cape. By this map it would appear that the country to be occupied by troops, extends from east to west, along the northern boundary about 150 miles, and from north to south 490 miles; presenting a sea coast of 800 miles, the peninsula having an average breadth of 100 miles. The whole of this country uninhabited by white people, except a narrow strip along the northern boundary from St. Augustine to Tallahassee, which may contain, probably, 5,000 inhabitants, sparsely settled on plantations within 25 miles of the Georgia line.

Our plan is this: let the whole of the seat of war be divided into eight military districts. Four on the Gulf side, and four on the Atlantic; having each a front of about 100 miles. Commencing at St. Mark's and extending to the river Suwannee, we make one district, which is to be again divided into three sub-districts. Let there be assigned to each district one regiment of regular infantry of 900 men, and 1,100 militia, or 12 companies, making in all 2,000 men, each sub-district to have one-third of that force. The centre sub-district to contain the head quarters. In each sub-district, a convenient and healthy position, accessible to boats, to be selected for the encampment of the troops, where all the supplies and means for carrying on the operations within the sub-district, should be concentrated. The next three districts will (with the exception of one of the sub-districts, which will be east of the Suwannee) extend south along the coast to the southern point of the peninsula; these, like the first district, to be sub-divided into three sub-districts. Thence from the point of the peninsula northerly, four other districts, constituting twelve sub-districts. The four districts on the Atlantic to be separated from those on the gulf, by a line drawn nearly north and south through the centre of the peninsula, which would make the depth of the districts, according to their respective locations, from 30 to 50 miles. Now the troops in each sub-district, after leaving 50 or 60 men at the camp for guard and for other purposes, would be 600 strong; this force to be divided into parties of from 30 to 50 men, and conducted by their respective officers into the interior, carrying with them six or seven days rations in their haversacks, but without baggage of any kind, except what they could take on their backs, marching in a direction perpendicular to the front of the district, towards its limit. The first day, the parties would march out at equal distances from each other, say 5 or 6 miles, in extended order; then concentrate at some convenient spot where good water is to be found, there deposit their knapsacks and haversacks; being thus lightened of their burden, they would proceed to examine the country to the right, left, and front of their respective positions, with a view to discover any signs of the enemy, taking care to come in before dark, and repose for the night *en bivouac*. Next day, early in the morning, the detachments to proceed in

like manner for about ten miles, when they would halt, rest, and again examine the country in search of the enemy; and so on until they reach the confines of the district; then return, scouting the country as before; but as the troops would be lighter, having consumed a considerable portion of their rations, they would be able to proceed with more rapidity. In these scouts, the men should be permitted to kill any game that may be discovered in their way, to be applied as subsistence to the party, and also to practise them in the successful use of their arms. It should be distinctly understood, however, that no noise or shouting be permitted except on discovering the enemy. The troops having returned, should be allowed to repose for three or four days, and again resume the scout. The days for scouting to be the same throughout Florida, to be settled by general orders before entering on the campaign, so that if the Indians be routed in one district, they will probably, in their flight, fall in with the troops scouting in a contiguous district. By these means, every portion and part of Florida will be visited and examined effectually, and if there be any Indian plantations, habitations or towns, existing, they would all be destroyed, and the women and children would be likely to fall into the hands of the troops, which would have a powerful agency in subduing the men.

As the seat of war is so vast, it is recommended that there be no general officer assigned to the chief command in Florida, but to leave the direction of the operations, and other affairs connected with the military service in each district, to the colonel commanding the regiment allotted to it, who should make his reports and communications direct to the adjutant general at the head quarters of the army, at Washington. The colonel would, under the articles of war, be authorized to hold general as well as regimental courts martial, and thus have the means of promptly maintaining discipline among the forces under his command. Besides, this division of command would excite an emulation among the officers and troops of each district, and it would also establish a greater degree of responsibility in the respective commanding officers. Among the advantages of this arrangement is, that as all the camps will be formed on ground contiguous to water communication, either on the coast or on navigable waters, the present enormous expense of land transportation to posts established in the interior would be avoided.

The question is now, how are we to get the troops to carry into execution the plan here proposed? We have in our army eight regiments of infantry, each when full 900 strong. In order to procure the services of the eight regiments of regular infantry, four of which are now in Florida, it is proposed to withdraw the four other regiments of infantry from the western frontiers and to supply their places by the 2d regiment of dragoons and the 3d regiment of artillery, which two regiments are now in Florida. The two regiments of dragoons would occupy all the posts on the western frontier, from Louisiana to St. Peters, and from the nature of the country they would be more efficient for service in that quarter than the infantry. The eighth regiment of infantry at Sackett's Harbor could be replaced, if necessary, by the third regiment of artillery. The 120 companies of militia to be furnished by requisition of the War Department on the governors of the States and Territories most convenient, and by single and independent companies, to be organized as the act of Congress directs, and to serve for a period of six months unless sooner discharged.

It is believed that the plan here proposed would finish the war in Florida in three months from the time of the arrival of the troops at their respective stations. If a competent force is not provided, the war may linger on for years to come, attended with great expense and the loss of the use of the fine country now occupied by the savages; but if by one stren-

uous effort as proposed, the war should terminate as speedily as anticipated, a rush of settlers would soon enter the country and occupy the fine lands which will be discovered by the militia officers and soldiers, and reported to their fellow citizens on their return home.

The force to be employed will then be—

Regulars	- - -	7,200
Militia	- - -	8,800
Total	- - -	16,000 men

The force, distributed as above, is supposed to be sufficient to finish the war in 60 days after its arrival at the points indicated for the camps; but we will allow 120 days. It certainly will be better and more economical to employ a sufficient force to cover the whole country and decide the war at once, than to have so few troops as to allow the enemy liberty to roam over the greater portion of the peninsula unmolested, and to choose their own time for predatory attacks on the defenceless inhabitants residing in the upper districts, and to waylay innocent persons, who may be obliged to travel on the highways. As all mounted force will be dispensed with, except a few for expresses, there will be but little forage to be furnished, and little need for transportation by horse teams or mules. The amount per man for the militia force will not, probably, exceed 50 cents a day, and for six months, or 180 days, \$528,000.

WAYNE.

THE SQUARE SYSTEM.

Mr. EDITOR: Prompted by a desire to contribute my humble mite towards the termination of the interminable Florida war, I have concluded to communicate, through your columns, to those in whose province it falls to devise ways and means of accomplishing this object, the result of nearly two years experience and observation while serving with the Florida army. For, having full confidence in their wisdom and judgment, I am of opinion that nothing more is wanting than correct information, to bring them to the adoption of such measures as are best adapted to the exigency of the case. I shall therefore endeavor to give a plain statement of facts and opinions, deduced from experience and actual observation, and will make some suggestions that seem warranted by the same wise counsellors.

In the first place I will observe, that I am no advocate for new measures or new systems, however plausible they may appear in the prospect, until those now in operation (and which appeared equally plausible when first proposed) have been fairly and thoroughly tested. Let us try one thing at a time, and when actual experience demonstrates that it is not adapted to the end, then wisdom dictates the trial of something else; and let us not flatter ourselves that this war is to be ended by some *coup de main*, or prompt manœuvre, some sudden dash at the enemy's strong hold, and therefore that all the measures that do not effect, or contemplate this, are to be rejected as inefficient, or unsuited to the purpose. But, on the other hand, let us learn wisdom from near five years experience, and conclude that nothing less than a well digested system, patiently and vigorously pursued, will produce the desired effect. Bearing these things in mind, let us inquire into what is familiarly termed the square system, that we may, after mature deliberation, determine whether it be advisable to continue it, or throw it aside for some other that promises a better result.

The square system consists, as is generally known, in laying off the country occupied by the Indians, into squares of twenty miles, and placing in the centre of each a certain number of troops, who are required to keep the enemy out of their respective squares. It has been in partial operation nearly twelve months, and I can safely say that, setting aside the knowledge of the country and experience of the troops, but little has been gained, notwithstanding the immense amount

of labor performed, and the privations and sufferings endured by the army employed in its execution. But the failure is not justly attributable to any inherent defect of the system itself; but may be plainly traced to the three following cases, viz: its partial adoption; the magnitude of the squares; and the deficiency of troops. For it is well known that within the last year the Indians have been scattered over the Territory in small parties, and when driven from one part of the country, they have taken refuge in another: and as the operations of the troops have been mostly limited to that portion covered by squares, (not exceeding one-third of the whole) of course they have failed either in subduing or capturing the enemy—a result that might have been reasonably expected, but from the deficiency of troops could not have been prevented. It has also been observed that although the Indians will come near the military posts, yet they will not remain in their immediate vicinity, say four or five miles; hence, if the posts were distributed all over the country, and so arranged that the enemy must necessarily be within this distance of one of them, they will be forced to leave the country or surrender at discretion. Besides, past events, especially the operations in M. Florida this last winter, have established the fact, that it is not barely sufficient to pursue the enemy to his fastnesses and to drive him from every swamp and hammock in the country, but, when driven out, measures must be taken to keep them out. It was with this view that the square system was adopted, though it has not answered the purpose, even in that part of the country where it was best tested, (M. F.) This may be chiefly attributed to the great magnitude of the squares, for the posts being in the centre of the same, were twenty miles distant from each other—thus allowing the Indians a range of ten miles from each post. Besides, the number of troops in each square has not exceeded an average of fifty men, a number barely sufficient to keep the enemy from permanently locating within four or five miles of their respective posts: from all of which I conclude the two following conditions must be fulfilled, in order to accomplish the desired object, viz:

1st. Whatever system is adopted, it must cover the whole country at the same time.

2d. The Indians are not only to be driven out of their dens and hiding places, but must be kept out.

Now I contend that the square system is admirably adapted to fulfil these conditions, if properly executed; and propose the following modification of it for this purpose, viz:

Let the whole Territory be laid off into squares as far south as the 27° of N. lat. South of this, as the interior of the Territory consists of the everglades and cannot be inhabited, lay off one tier of squares on either coast, extending to Cape Sable. It will be found that eighty squares will thus cover E. Florida, fourteen M. Florida, and six squares as much of W. Florida as need be occupied. Total, one hundred squares. Subdivide each square into four squares of ten miles; place one hundred men at the principal posts in the centre of each large square; build a block-house in the centre of each sub square, to be occupied by detachments drawn from the centre post. This being done, it will be found that the whole country will be covered, and that the posts being ten miles apart, the Indians can be, at no time, more than five miles from some post, and will consequently be forced to surrender, as they cannot live in the immediate vicinity of troops. There being one hundred squares, and one hundred men in each, ten thousand men will be required to fill them. But the nature of the country is such that some squares will require three or four hundred men; besides, there should be a disposable force to pursue the enemy in boats in that part of the everglades not covered by the squares, and to hunt out the families. These three objects will require at least an additional force of two thousand men, making the whole force twelve thousand men. This

may seem to be an extravagant number; but I am verily of opinion, (which I doubt not would be confirmed by the event,) that every attempt to terminate this war with a less force, in a period less than ten years, will prove utterly vain and abortive.

But, it may be asked, where is the above force to be obtained? I would reply, make up the deficiency of the regular troops, by volunteer infantry, which, notwithstanding the prejudice against this kind of troops, I am of opinion, might be so distributed and mingled with the regular forces, as to render very good service, especially as the essential principle of the system thus fully carried out, consists more in the actual presence of troops than in their active operation. The principal part of the work is to establish the posts and occupy them with troops, and the enemy will necessarily give up the country. As to the plan of gradually driving the Indians south and establishing a cordon of posts between them and the settlements, a due consideration of the foregoing facts will readily point out its total impracticability, by a force less than that above estimated for the square system; besides protracting the war to a period wholly inconceivable.

The above views are respectfully submitted, with a hope that, if not fully adopted, they will, at the least, be maturely considered.

R. (AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY.)
FLORIDA, April 12, 1840.

A VISIT TO SAM JONES'S CAMP. PART II.

HARANGUE OF SAM JONES.

"My brothers, my braves, and warriors!" commenced the illustrious chief Ap-i-ar-ka, "the moon has come (February) in which it is necessary to plant. The agriculture of a people is its first object, whether in peace or in war; and to the preservation of this vital interest it behoves us to look with a steady zeal, an unrelaxed vigilance. And I am proud to say that since Oceola first clenched the tomahawk in hostility, to this hour, the nation has triumphed alike in the fields of Mars and Ceres; and this we will continue to do whilst we pursue with steadiness our enlightened policy, by which we have been directed from the first onset, viz. as offensive measures are in direct opposition to defensive measures, so our sole aim is to act exactly different from the whites. For this reason we send forth no old men to command you, for this is a service wherein *one* pair of heels is worth *two* pairs of heads; and we know our old men would only quarrel, and then it would take a council of young warriors to settle the matter; and thus would the best of our brave army be kept at home, devouring our subsistence to adjust old men's quarrels, instead of being abroad, serving the country to whose soil they are indebted for their birth, to whose people they owe their gratitude, and to whose honor their allegiance is due. But I forget, I need not urge a thousand Spartans, who have set at defiance millions of Goths and Vandals. I am told, but as low as is my opinion of my enemies, I give it no belief, that the great war-chiefs among them are torn with dissension, and that money enough to buy a first-rate rifle for every one of you, was expended in what they call a court of inquiry to settle disputes. But do not believe these stories; they tend but to render your enemy insignificant in your eyes, and I believe them but traps to ensnare us; for the white people, who have sense enough to invent a rifle with six loads, cannot be so foolish; and bear in mind, to be formidable yourselves, you must ever endeavor to think your enemy more formidable than you. The soldier who sallies forth, prepared for the worst, seldom returns inglorious!"

"My brothers! the planting moon has again risen upon us; and, thanks to your vigorous arms and sinewy legs, has risen on us again in prosperity. The picaninny smiling on the breast of its happy mother; the urchin well pleased with full belly; the

young men panting for the deep swamp and the dead hammock; and the old men willing now to die, certain that the keeping of dear darling Florida is in worthy hands. But let not luxury usurp the place of honest prosperity; nor deem that because we have enough now, we will have enough hereafter. Look at this country; the time was when thriving plantations speckled the territory from the Atlantic to the gulf. Oceola raised the standard of revolt, and the foe, forgetful of the planting interest, left no guards for their corn, sugar-cane, cotton—no not even for their wives and daughters—and pursued us. My heart bounds with rapture, and these tears—not the rheum of age—this briny current from the heart, thanks you for allowing me to add, and a pretty wild-goose chase they made of it. What was the result? Their houses, their wives, their picaninnies, their crops, all, all, we destroyed. We left Florida as the first red man found it—not a garden to minister to the false appetites of the white man, but for the purpose for which the Great Spirit created it—the hunting ground of the Indian. It is unnecessary to say, all this devastation arose from their not protecting what they had; for we see still the Great Spirit is on our side, and has blinded them; for our young men tell us, even now, in spite of the five years' lesson we have taught them, they still build log-houses in the woods, and think an Indian cannot find his back trail; as if driving us across the Suwannee would prevent us from returning to Middle Florida. No, my friends, were they to catch hold of hands, and stretch from shore to shore across the peninsula, some night would come, dark enough for you to crawl between their legs.

"My braves! the planting moon shines brightly above us, and our squaws must be set to work. Our old men, who were active, good soldiers once, will remain home as a guard for these. They may be of some service; if they are not, they will at least have the consolation of knowing that they are not in the way. Go out, then, and commit depredations; murder, steal, and burn; but do it afar from our fields, for the wise enemy always run to find our trail, and they will never have the wit to surprise our women, instead of finding your trail; for they know not the secret that you can make two miles of trail in half the time they can follow one. Do not be too rash and kill too many, for that will too much provoke them, and the head chief of all, (the President,) who used to be our father, but who is now our equal only, and hardly that, may send great numbers of his people. Not that we could not whip the whole concern, but they would frighten all our deer and eat up the cattle, which would be a drawback on our tables. You will therefore only kill now and then near the settlements, and knock over an express rider occasionally, that I may get a Globe once in a while to see if they talk as much as ever in Congress.

"A few more words and I have done. The principal command, on both sides of the Suwannee, devolves on Brigadier General Tiger-Tail, whom I am happy to see now at your head. To give a warrior of his renown instructions would be presumption; but I would suggest to him that as the country in that section has been laid out into squares, why will not they answer as well, yes better, for us than the whites? I would therefore respectfully suggest that a *devilling* corps be organized, and that three men be detailed therefrom for each square, to devil the whites—make trails and lead the white chiefs to suppose it necessary to keep up the old system.

"One more remark and I conclude. It is reported to me that the enemy have procured a species of dog, called bloodhound, and from this circumstance it is evident that the United States' whites are the silliest of all whites. They sent to Cuba for five thousand dollars worth of dogs—bloodhounds. Of course every rascally Spaniard, who had a cur that was a nuisance, chained him up—starved him—fed him with raw beef—and poked him with a stick. One week of such

treatment would make any man living a bloodhound. The consequence was, the Mexicans got rid of their curs, and pocketed five thousand dollars. I do not believe much in these dogs, but the Bad Spirit may keep some of them on your trail; it will be well, therefore, for every man to carry a chunk of fresh meat, and throw at the first that approaches, for dogs prefer beef to Indian.

"And now, my brothers, braves, and warriors, go forth, and Heaven speed you. Remember when we are at war for a specific purpose, flight is no disgrace; and bear in mind, that to stand before a superior force who have the advantage, may evince bravery, but it does not tell well of the tactics of the soldier. In personal affairs, personal bravery is expected; but in a war, self is to be lost sight of, and the good of your people only considered. General Tail has fought too long and too well to be informed that every *good* general regards the loss of *one* man as a national calamity. Go forth! and with light hearts; for the Seminole Government say to their soldiers, what the United States say not to theirs: go forth—fight fearlessly—if ye return wounded, you shall be supported bountifully—if ye fall, your squaws and picaninnies shall become the cherished wives and children of your people. Having our words for this, ye can fight without a knapsack full of solicitude weighing you down in the hour of peril. Lay out no campaign; take no drums; have no reveille but the turkey call; march not in columns; and if you do, do not fire rifles, *even*, at the head of them, for this serves no other purpose than to warn the enemy and designate for him your location. Remember, *no one* shall be brevetted. Do not suffer doing your duty to be such an extraordinary matter that the man who does it deserves *peculiar* notice. All of you do your duty, and you will gain what no Government can bestow—the approbation of yourselves—and each man will feel a Major General at heart. I shall arrest the first officer who transmits a long windy report to my head quarters. I have now finished. My speech has been as long as a white President's message, except mine has this advantage, it has some sense in it."

The army then passed the General in review, in Indian file; rifles and breech cloths were inspected; and after the following order had been published, the line filed off and were soon lost a long the mangroves on the main land.

HEAD QUARTERS, SEMINOLE ARMY,
Fort Non-come-at-able-in-swampo,
No. 2. } Paihaiokee, (E. F.) Feb. 1, 1840.

I...Any officer making a report, occupying more than one side of a sheet of common letter bark, will forthwith be placed in arrest.

II...Officers in the field will issue no orders whatever, make no muster rolls, and restrict themselves to simple returns, that the number of effective men may be known, which is the only information requisite at these Head Quarters. Troops take the field to wield the rifle, not the pen, to be soldiers, not clerks.

III...It being absurd to think of waiting for instructions from these head quarters, so far from the scene of action, and promptness with decision being the backbone and artery of war, the General commanding in the field will not have his hands tied, but exercise a sound discretion; and as he will be held accountable, he will take no advice but his own, in imitation of that great man, the *last successful white warrior*, Andrew Jackson.

BY ORDER OF GEN. S. JONES,
Commanding in chief:

SAUCY JACK,
Captain and Adjutant General.

As the Seminole troops disappeared, General Sam reseated himself at my side; but what then transpired I reserve for Part 3.

JUNIUS.

**Proceedings of Congress,
IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1840.

The SPEAKER laid before the House additional papers from the Secretary of War, to accompany the letter from the Secretary of War laid before the House on the 19th instant, respecting the non-establishment of a military post near the western boundary of the State of Louisiana, which,

On motion of Mr. R. GARLAND, were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Also a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting the information required by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 9th instant, in relation to proceedings under the treaty of 1st November, with the Winnebagoes. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report and estimate for a harbor at the mouth of Root river, near Racine, on the west shore of Lake Michigan, Wisconsin Territory, made in obedience to instructions inferred from a letter from the Colonel of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, dated 17th October, 1839, to Lorenzo Janes, and others, of Racine, Wisconsin Territory; which was,

On motion of Mr. CROSS, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

MONDAY, MARCH 30.

Mr. GATES presented a petition praying Congress to pass a law prohibiting the use of ardent spirits in the army and navy, and its sale in the Capitol.

Mr. HOPKINS moved to lay it on the table; which was disagreed to.

Mr. GATES moved to refer it to a Select Committee; which motion was lost, on a count—ayes 46, noes 67.

Mr. ADAMS demanded the ayes and nays.

Mr. RAMSEY moved to refer it to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. CROCKETT said, if it was in order, he would move to lay it on the table.

The SPEAKER said it would not be in order, inasmuch as the House had just refused to lay it on the table.

Mr. HUBBARD said he thought the House had enough to do, without converting the Congress of the nation into a temperance society. He hoped the petition would be disposed of summarily.

Mr. REED suggested that so much of it as related to the navy be referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs; so much as related to the army, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs; and so much as related to the sale of ardent spirits in the Capitol, be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. GATES gave his assent to the proposed disposition.

Mr. HUBBARD wished to know whether they had the constitutional power to organize the House into a temperance society.

The SPEAKER said, under the rule, the petition must lie over, having caused debate.

Mr. EARLL presented the petition of William Sabin and 52 other citizens of the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, and observed that the petitioners assert that the use of intoxicating drinks for persons in health are unnecessary and injurious; that considering the temptations which beset officers, soldiers, and sailors, in the army and navy, removed from the restraints of society, to indulge in such drinks, and the facility with which the aborigines of this country form intemperate appetites; and believing that any legislation which would exclude such drinks from the navy and army, while such drinks are permitted to be sold in the Capitol of the nation, involves an apparent inconsistency between precept and example: the petitioners ask that an act may be passed, at the present session of Congress, prohibiting the furnishing of any such drinks to the army, navy, or Indians, within the jurisdiction of the United States; and that the duty on all imported intoxicating drinks be increased; and also prohibiting such

sales at the Capitol at Washington, or at or near any military or naval depot under the jurisdiction of the United States; and that every other means within the constitutional control of Congress may be used to discourage the manufacture of such drinks in the U. S. Mr. E. moved its reference to the Committee on Manufactures; it was so referred.

Mr. HUNT presented the petition of 59 citizens of Greenbush, Rensselaer county, New York, praying Congress to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks in the Capitol, or at or near any military or naval depot or grounds under the United States' jurisdiction—and also to increase the duty on all imported intoxicating drinks; referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia. Memorial of the Common Council and citizens of Troy, in the State of New York, asking the establishment of a national foundry in the vicinity of that city; referred to the Select Committee having charge of the subject, and the memorial, &c. to be printed.

Mr. HAND presented the petition of 100 citizens of Moyers, Clinton county, New York, praying for the prohibition of the use of ardent spirits in the army, &c.

Mr. FLETCHER presented resolutions of the General Assembly of Vermont, relative to the militia of the United States. Memorial and resolutions of the military convention held at Norwich, August, 1839.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Bailey and DeLord, coming up for a third reading,

Mr. HAND spoke at some length, and showed that the bill, in its present form, would be of no utility. If there was justice in the case, of which there could be no doubt, he thought the House ought to do justice. These men made large advances to the Government, when its credit was very low, during the last war, and furnished the troops with supplies; and all the survivors asked was that they should be indemnified for the amount advanced. Mr. H. then moved to recommit the bill to the Committee of Claims, with instructions to report an amendment, allowing \$20,000 to the claimants.

Mr. DAWSON said if it was the intention of the House to change the character of the bill, he thought they had better adopt the amendment; but the committee which reported the bill were unanimous in the conclusions it had come to. The claim was founded on private debts incurred by the soldiers; and he thought it would be a bad principle to establish, to make the Government responsible for debts of that character.

Mr. HAND demanded the yeas and nays on the motion to recommit; which were not, however, ordered.

The question was then taken on the proposition, and rejected; and the bill, as reported from the Committee of the Whole, was read the third time, and passed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4.

Mr. J. W. JONES, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for certain fortifications for the year 1840; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. EVANS, from the same committee, reported a bill making appropriation for surveys and other purposes; which was twice read, and appropriately committed.

Mr. DAWSON, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of General Duncan L. Clinch; which was read twice, and appropriately committed.

Mr. GOOSIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill allowing rations to Brigadier General John E. Wool, Adjutant and Inspector General of the U. S. army; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee of the Whole, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. KEMBLE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill respecting enlistments in the army and navy; which was twice read, and committed.

Mr. K., from the same Committee, reported back to the House, without amendment, Senate bill, entitled "An act to provide for the armed occupation and settlement of that part of Florida which is now overrun and infested by marauding bands of hostile Indians;" which was committed.

On motion of Mr. K. the same committee was discharged from the consideration of the inquiry as to the propriety of furnishing Colt's patent rifle to citizens of Florida; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. THOMPSON of South Carolina, from the same committee, reported a bill making provisions to pay a company of volunteers for guarding the emigrating Indians; which was read twice, and committed.

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Commodore Isaac Hull; which was read twice, and committed.

Mr. CARR gave notice that he intended to ask leave, on the first day that it would be in order to do so, to introduce a bill granting a small portion of the public lands to certain volunteers, militia men, and rangers, who served — months in the late war, and who defended the frontier during the late war with Great Britain.

Domestic Intelligence.

GALVESTON, April 11.—The brig Galveston arrived from Baltimore on Wednesday. She is the last of the vessels contracted for with Messrs Dawson Brothers, for the use of our navy, and is of the same dimensions and upon the same model of the brig Colorado. Our naval force is now complete, and by no means insignificant. The vessels are of the first order for the dimensions, and nearly all of the officers are men who have learned their profession in the service of the United States, or in active service elsewhere, and who now pant with impatience for an opportunity to distinguish themselves and the new republic by their achievements along the coast of Mexico. We have not a word to say at present against the proposed measure of laying up the navy, but it would seem hard, whatever policy, or even necessity, might dictate, to throw off the gallant young seamen who have rallied under our banner, after the sacrifices many of them have made in so doing. A large number, if not a majority of them, have abandoned the service of the first nation of the world to embark in our own, and whatever course the Government may consider itself compelled to pursue towards them, their devotion to the interests of the country will be appreciated by the people.

We do not profess to understand the policy which our government is at present pursuing towards Mexico; but we should question the propriety of abandoning the most efficient arm of the national power, as far as offensive operations are concerned, before the recognition of our independence becomes certain.—*Civilian.*

We learn from a gentleman direct from Austin, that the navy will not be laid up as at present contemplated.—*Ibid, April 12.*

THE WINNEBAGOES.—The statement made in our last relative to the removal of these Indians was incorrect. The facts are as follows: General Atkinson has received instructions from the War Department, to repair to this country to remove the Winnebagoes to the neutral ground on the west side of the Mississippi. He will be at Prairie du Chien about the 20th of this month, and will order a detachment of dragoons from Fort Leavenworth, and three companies of infantry from Fort Snelling to that point, which, together with the troops garrisoned at Fort Crawford and Winnebago, amounting in all to about six hundred men, will be all the regular force. Mr. Lowry, the Indian agent, passed through this place last week, and his instructions are to endeavor to assemble the chiefs at Prairie du Chien, or some other suitable point, by the 20th of May next. In case the Indians refuse to remove peaceably, which we believe there is little reason to doubt, then Gov. Dodge is requested, provided the regular troops should not be sufficient, to call out such a number of men to aid in their removal as may

be determined on. From the experience and knowledge of the commanding General (Atkinson) acquired in this country in the years 1827 and 1832, we are satisfied that this task could not have been confided to better hands. The most friendly feeling exists between Governor Dodge and General Atkinson, and they will doubtless advise with each other as to the best mode to be pursued for the peaceable removal of the Winnebagoes. With these two old Indian fighters, who are perfectly conversant with the Indian character, we harbor not the slightest apprehension that there will be any difficulty. The humane conduct of the General Government towards these Indians will meet with the decided approbation of all philanthropists. For their protection from the hostile tribes by which they will be surrounded when removed to their new homes, it is intended to station at some commanding and eligible point, a sufficient number of men to check and hold in awe their warlike neighbors, and insure to the Winnebagoes the quiet and undisturbed possession of their hunting grounds.—*Miners' Free Press, Mineral Point, Wisconsin Territory, April 13th.*

BROCK'S MONUMENT.—The Toronto Patriot has the following additional particulars in relation to the destruction of Sir Isaac Brock's monument at Queenston Heights:

"The explosion took place at half-past four, A. M., on Good Friday. Very considerable damage has been done to the Monument, which from external appearances, would seem not capable of repair. The pedestal is slightly cracked on the four sides, and the keystone of the arch over the door blown out. The shaft of the column is likewise cracked more than half way up on four sides, one and two most extensively, the cracks being in some places ten inches or a foot wide. The gallery and cupola are very much shaken. A considerable quantity of powder must have been employed, as the explosion was distinctly heard at Niagara."

Sir George Arthur has offered a reward for the apprehension of the individuals who perpetrated the shameful act.

The Niagara Reporter says—that the monument cannot stand, as the breaches are widening: The front door which was very massive, was shivered to pieces and thrown a great distance; the upper one and the whole heavy stairs are broken to pieces, and its lintel displayed, which now rests on the iron balustrade. It is also ascertained that the persons concerned in this act, came from Lewiston, the boat in which they crossed (owned by Mr. Hurd) was found at Field's Point, below Queenston, with a pair of gloves and a coarse canvas bag in it, partly torn off as if used to muffle the oars; another piece of cloth of similar texture was found near the monument, and a long piece of fuse; powder was also discovered in the streets of Lewiston, similar to some found on the hill, and it appears that about two weeks ago two kegs called cloverseed, were stored with an innkeeper of the name of Raymond at Lewiston, and which remained there only a few days. The person who left the kegs sent another individual for them, but both strangers to Mr. R. Two persons, *Canadians*, have been arrested under strong circumstantial evidence of having perpetrated the wanton deed.

The Arabian ship *Sultane*, whose arrival we noticed yesterday under our shipping head, is, we learn, the property of the *Imaun of Muscat*, as well as her cargo. She is a fine vessel of about 300 tons, built in Bombay, of Teakwood, and has a crew of 59 Arabs. We trust that this attempt of the *Imaun* to establish a commercial intercourse with the port of New York will meet with that cordial reception on our part which it well merits. The port from which she comes is at the entrance of the Gulf of Persia.—*New York Courier.*

Naval Intelligence.**U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.**

Schr. Grampus, Lt. Com'dt. J. S. Paine, at Sierra Leone, April 1—all well.

The Columbus, 74, Capt. G. W. Storer, has been hauled off from the navy yard at Charlestown, and anchored off Long wharf in Boston harbor, where she will remain during the summer as a receiving ship.

BRAZIL SQUADRON.—The U. S. frigate Potomac is lying at the naval anchorage, ready to loose her wings for the Brazil station. The following is a list of her officers:

Captain LAWRENCE KEARNY, Esq.; Lieuts. L. M. Goldsborough, John Marston, Jr., William S. Ogden, Henry H. Bell, A. B. Fairfax, Charles H. Kennedy, and John De Camp; Lieut. of Marines Thomas A. Brady; Fleet Surgeon A. A. Adey; Purser Samuel P. Todd; Master Henry French; Passed Asst. Surgeon Wm. I. Powell; Asst. Surgeon James McClelland; Professor of Mathematics Joel Grant; P. Midshipmen G. W. Grant, G. W. Doty, Henry P. Robertson, and H. Tingey Wingate; Captain's clerk Butler Maury; Midshipmen John S. Taylor, Edward Higgins, James Bulloch, Thomas L. Dance, F. M. Humphreys, Thos. M. Crossan, Chas. C. Simms, John Stuart, Robert C. Rogers, Charles Weston, R. W. Shufeldt, M. C. Perry, Jr., Beverly Randolph, John R. Hyson, Wm. Evelyn Hopkins, D. R. Lambert, and John W. Bennett; Carpenter M. B. Freeman; Boatswain V. R. Hall; Gunner A. Lewis; Master's Mate J. P. Fisher; passenger Lieut. B. J. Moeller.—*Norfolk Beacon, May 1.*

WEST INDIA SQUADRON.—The U. S. ship Warren, S. B. Wilson, Lieut. Com'g, arrived in this harbor on Wednesday last, from Havana via Cape Antonio. This ship has been actively employed during the last five months in cruising off the north side of the island of Cuba, for the protection of our commerce, so extensively carried on with the different ports of the island. The officers and crew are all in good health.

List of officers attached to the Warren:

Lt. Com'g Stephen B. Wilson; Lieuts. James T. Gerry, Joseph Lanman, John R. Tucker, Daniel B. Ridgely, acting; Acting Master W. Gwathmey; Purser Thos. M. Taylor; Surgeon Daniel Egbert; Asst. Surgeon Augustus F. Lawyer; Midshipmen Stephen D. Vallette, W. E. Boudinot, John Guest, J. W. A. Nicholson, Wm. A. Webb, Felix G. Mayson, Paul Shirley, R. M. Cuyler; Prof. of Mathematics Mordecai Yarnall; Captain's clerk Joseph Gideon; Boatswain James Bray; Gunner J. W. Pennington; Sailmaker Madison Wheeden; Purser's clerk Donald Davidson.

We learn that Commander Jamesson will take command of the Warren.—*Pensacola Gazette, April 18.*

The Levant sailed on Thursday last with sealed orders. Conjecture is busy as to the object. Some say she is going in pursuit of the "long low black schooner." Some, that she is going to Vera Cruz with secret despatches; and some, that she is sent to look out for the English fleet.—*Ibid. April 25.*

NAVY.**ORDERS.**

April 10—Passed Mid. H. S. Stellwagen, coast survey under Lieut. Gedney.

23—Capt. E. A. F. Lavallette, to command of ship of the line Ohio, vice Capt. J. Smith, relieved in consequence of ill health.

Mid. Wm. Hewitt, Receiving ship, Norfolk.

27—Carpenter W. Jordan, do., Boston.

28—Lieut. Geo. Adams, Mediterranean squadron.

29—Asst. Sur. J. T. Mason, Rec'g ship, Boston.

Lt. J. Rudd, Mid. C. Weston, do., Norfolk.

30—Lt. J. C. Carter, leave three months, having returned from the W. I. squadron.

May 1—Lieut. J. M. Gardner, rec'g ship, Baltimore.

F. Mid. J. J. B. Walbach, do., do.

2—Lieut. W. W. Bleeker, do., Philadelphia.

Lieut. T. J. Manning, detached from Receiving ship at New York, and leave three months.

Boatswain R. Whitaker, navy yard, New York, vice E. Crocker, detached.

MARINE CORPS.

April 7—Leave of absence for one month to Capt. A. N. Brevoort.

11—2d Lieut. R. D. Taylor, ordered to report for duty at Head Quarters; joined on the 18th.

13—1st Lieut. N. S. Waldron, ordered to report for duty at New York.

29—2d Lieut. J. T. Doughty, ordered report for duty at New York, by the 23d May, when his leave of absence will expire.

MARRIAGES.

In Philadelphia, on the 28th ult., SAM'L ABBOTT, to ELIZABETH SERGEANT, eldest daughter of Dr. Wm. P. C. BARTON, of the U. S. navy.

At Brooklyn, N. Y., on Thursday evening last, Lieut. WM. ROGERS TAYLOR, U. S. navy, to CAROLINE A., daughter of GOLD S. SILLIMAN, Esq.

In St. Augustine, on the 23d ult., Lieut. JOHN O'BRIEN, U. S. army, to Miss AGATHA, second daughter of BERNARDO SEGUN, Esq., of that city.

DEATH.

At Cherry Hill, near Rahway, N. J., on the 23d April, GEORGE BROWN, (father of Capt. HARVEY Brown, U. S. army,) in the 87th year of his age.

NAVAL AND MILITARY SCIENCE.—Just imported from London by F. TAYLOR, and this day received, Mitchell's (Lieut. Col.) Tactics and Military Organization. Magrath's Art of War.

Naval and Military Almanac for 1840, "made up of matter of special interest to the united service."

British Naval List for 1840.

British Army List for 1840.

Glaescock's (Captain Royal Navy) Naval Service, or Officer's Manual.

Fordyce's (Lieut. Royal Navy) Naval Routine.

Wellington's Despatches, 13 vols.

McWilliam on Dry Rot.

New Tables of Logarithms, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

The King's Regulations and Orders for the Army.

Lieut. Col. Humphrey's Modern Fortifications.

Nautical Surveying, by Commander Edward Belcher.

Robson's Marine Surveying.

Mackenzie's Marine Surveying.

Sir Howard Douglas on Military Bridges.

do do Naval Gunnery.

Artillerist's Manual and Compendium of Military Instruction, by Capt. Griffiths, Royal Artillery.

Gunpowder, its manufacture and proof, by John Braddock, Commissary of Ordnance.

Falconer's Marine Dictionary, 1 vol. 4to.

Charnock's Marine Architecture, 3 vols. 4to.

McPherson's Annals of Commerce, 4 vols. 4to.

British Naval Biography and History, from Howard to Codrington, 1 vol.

Simmons (Capt. Royal Artillery) on Courts Martial.

Armstrong on Steam Boilers.

Newton's Principia, 2 vols.

The Celestial Mechanics of La Place, 1 vol.

Nichol's Phenomena of the Solar System, 1 vol.

Hutton's Mathematical Tables and Logarithms.

New edition of Hutton's Mathematics, entirely remodelled for the use of the Royal Military Academy.

Sopwith's Isometrical Drawing.

Sir John Ross on Steam and Steam Navigation, in connexion with maritime warfare, 1 vol. 4to.

And many others of the same class with the above.

LIST TO BE CONTINUED.

On hand, an extensive and valuable collection of the best and latest works on Geology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Botany, &c.; on the Steam Engine, on Bridge Building, on Drawing, Astronomy, Surveying, Civil and Military Engineering, &c.; and on all other branches of the Natural, Mathematical, and Mechanical Sciences, at the lowest prices in every case.

* * The British Nautical Almanac for 1843 daily expected.

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April 30—1m

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